THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA):(a) and (b) In Uttar Pradesh, during the last three financial years 1331 km. of National Highways has been widened/strengthened/improved for its riding quality besides construction of 453.50 km. under National Highways Development Project. Maintenance and repair is a continuous process and has been taken up for the entire National Highways network in Uttar Pradesh. The total amount spent on development, maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh during the last three financial years was Rs. 3756.81 crore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Full allocation of Rs. 140.95 crore for National Highways Original works made to the State of Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year is not likely to be utilised. So far only Rs. 69.04 crore have been utilised till 31-1-2007. Similarly, for maintenance and repair, the allocation during the current year is Rs. 55.19 crore against which the utilisation so far is Rs. 28.74 crore.

Unemployed seamen

379. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed short-term measure of allowing two marine officers of foreign origin to work on Indian ships;

(b) whether there are about 70,000 trained seafarers in India at present against 20,000 positions available, rendering a large number unemployed; and

(c) whether with a huge unemployed surplus of seamen at the level of ratings, Government would enhance training facility for senior level officers, to avoid hiring of foreign hands?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) In view of acute shortage of Indian officers to work on Indian ships, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions.

(b) There is unemployment in the category of ratings, although the exact number is not readily available.

(c) To increase availability of qualified Indian officers, the Government is also considering measures to enhance training facilities.

Bolangir-Khurda NH in Orissa

380. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds that have been allocated so far to Bolangir-Khurda *via* Sonepur, Boudh Nayagarh National Highways project of Orissa;

(b) the amount of funds that have been utilized so far;

(c) the reasons for delay in completing the said project; and

(d) the time limit under which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Bolangir-Khurda *via* Sonepur, Boudh Nayagarh is a National Highway 224, Development and Maintenance funds for National Highways are allocated State-wise and not National Highway-wise.

(b) Since entrustment of this National Highway 224 to Orissa Public Works Department in January, 2005, an amount of Rs. 1.78 crore have been utilized for development and Rs. 5.28 crore for maintenance.

(c) and (d) There is no delay and the works are in progress.

Construction on NH-28, NH-57and NH-31

†381. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 13 kms. stretch of road has been constructed out of total 513 kms. stretch under NH-28, NH-57 and NH-31 - under East-West Corridor in Bihar under National Highways Development Project;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.